

3.13 Kuranda Indigenous Community

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine our people are happy, healthy, well housed, in paid jobs, have good access to community and health services and sport and recreational facilities.

Djabugay Traditional Owners are well recognized by the wider community and the whole Indigenous community

is actively involved in decision-making for Kuranda and district. Local Indigenous culture is celebrated, well promoted and controlled by Indigenous people.

The Kuranda Indigenous community has a strong political voice that governments and the wider community take notice of.



Kuranda Indigenous community plan workshop, 2011

Kuranda District Population: 2505

Kuranda Indigenous Population: 362 (14.4% of total population)*

*Local residents regard ABS population data as an undercount and estimate the local Indigenous population to be about 1200
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities – This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.13.1 Appropriate housing

(i) Investigate options for building new housing in Kuranda, Kowrowa, Mantaka, Koah, Mona Mona and Speewah:

- Local organisations to access government funds to purchase land and build houses or purchase existing houses
- Local organisations acquire Crown or Council reserve land for housing
- Queensland Government to build more public housing;
- Construct homes on Nyuwarrri Estate and address planning scheme issues
- Culturally appropriate accommodation for elderly Indigenous residents. [Queensland Government, Australian Government, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society, TRC](#)

(ii) Investigate options for establishing safe crisis accommodation for women and children and a men's shelter to meet urgent need. [Local community organisations, Queensland Government, Australian Government](#)

(iii) Review and improve the maintenance program for public housing. [Queensland Government](#)

2012 - 2021

3.13.2 Public transport

(i) Investigate options for improving public transport from Kuranda to Kowrowa, Mantaka, Mona Mona, Koah, Myola and Speewah:

- Hold community meetings in each community to address transport issues
- Lobby for competitive tendering of local taxi service
- Enforce good practices by taxi services
- Regular bus services
- Liaise with Community Transport Service Providers Network. [Private Bus Operators, Community, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Taxi Service, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network](#)

(ii) Conduct learn to drive classes in community and at school to assist Indigenous people to gain driver license.

[Kuranda District P12 College, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society, Dept of Transport and Main Roads](#)

2012 - 2013

3.13.3 Employment and training

(i) Assist School to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students:

- Employ more Indigenous staff
- Review programs and curriculum to ensure engagement of Indigenous students
- Establish mentoring program Prep to year 12 including cultural mentoring by Elders
- More career expos and career information
- Greater support for Indigenous students to take up vocational education placements
- Indigenous students included in school leadership
- More support for Education Officers to assist students to attend and participate in school
- Continue funding for Family as First Teachers program in Kuranda, Mantaka and Kowrowa. [Indigenous Community, Indigenous Elders, Kuranda District P12 College, Dept of Education and Training](#)

(ii) Encourage local employers to employ local Indigenous workers. [Community, Local Employers, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc](#)

(iii) Explore feasibility of establishing a training centre to equip local Indigenous people with skills for local jobs eg. Barista and ensure training is linked to real jobs. [Community, Dept of Education and Training, Training Organisations](#)

(iv) Investigate options to create new business opportunities and real jobs. [Community, Employment Service Providers, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Local Employers, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc](#)

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2016

Community Participation

The community participation rate for developing the Kuranda Indigenous plan was 107%, indicating that more Kuranda Indigenous residents participated in the community planning than there are residing in the district. However, Kuranda residents regard the ABS population data as an undercount and estimate that there are about 1200 Indigenous residents in the Kuranda district, which gives a rate of at least 20%.

3.13.4 Culture arts and heritage

(i) Establish a Djabugay Ranger Program to preserve authentic Djabugay culture:

- Personalized tours
- Links with Sky Rail and Kuranda Train. [Djabugay, Queensland Government, Australian Government](#)

(ii) Conduct cultural mentoring by Elders. [Djabugay, Community](#)

(iii) Promote Djabugay as Traditional Owners:

- Signage
- Inclusion in Council decision-making. [Djabugay, TRC](#)

(iv) Raise awareness with Council and Government decision-makers of two distinct cultural heritages:

- Djabugay as Traditional Owners
- Historical association under government Aboriginal Acts of forced removal of Indigenous people. [Australian Government, Djabugay, Indigenous Community, TRC, Queensland Government](#)

(v) Protect and promote authentic Indigenous arts and culture in Kuranda by introducing and enforcing a system to safeguard Indigenous art works and ensure copyright protection. [Local Businesses, Community, Queensland Government, Djabugay, Indigenous Organisations, Indigenous Artists](#)

(vi) Celebrate NAIDOC Week as a whole of community celebration. [Community, Indigenous Community, TRC, Queensland Government](#)

(vii) Appoint an Indigenous Arts and Culture Officer to promote Indigenous arts and culture. [Tourism Kuranda](#)

(viii) Investigate feasibility of establishing Indigenous Museum, Cultural Interpretation and Information Centre. [Djabugay, Queensland Government, Australian Government](#)

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2016

3.13.5 Youth venues and activities

(i) Investigate feasibility of establishing a child care centre. [Community, Community Organisations, Queensland Government](#)

(ii) Conduct ongoing coaching clinics. [Queensland Government, Sporting Clubs](#)

(iii) Conduct youth leadership programs and offer tutoring and mentoring to assist young people to achieve. [Local Organisations, Kuranda District P12 College, Families, Mareeba Youth Service \(TRC\)](#)

(iv) Investigate feasibility of establishing a Safe House for crisis situations. [Dept of Communities, Local Community Organisations](#)

(v) Engage with young people to identify youth led activities such as community gardens. [Indigenous Community](#)

(vi) Investigate feasibility of establishing a multipurpose indoor sporting facility. [TRC, Queensland Government, Community, Local Sport and Recreation Groups](#)

(vii) Access funding to establish a long term Indigenous Youth Officer position. [Ngoonbi Cooperative Society, Queensland Government, Australian Government](#)

(viii) Upgrade current sport and recreation facilities. [TRC](#)

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2016

2016-2021

3.13.6 Health services and facilities

(i) Employ and train Indigenous aged care nurses and carers for proposed Welcome Pocket Aged Care Facility. [Aged Care Providers](#)

(ii) Conduct Elder cultural programs for youth and community. [Djabugay, Kuranda Justice Group, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society](#)

(iii) Investigate feasibility of establishing a Diversionary Centre with a culturally suitable program for rehabilitation and diversion. [Local Indigenous Organisations, Djabugay, Queensland Government, Australian Government](#)

(iv) Justice System to acknowledge alternative sentencing options such as Ngoonbi Farm and offer outreach and training for offenders. [Kuranda Justice Group, Dept of Justice and Attorney General, Djabugay, Lotus Glen Correctional Centre](#)

(v) Review community and government services:

- Increase in dental services
- Recognised Entity for Child Safety established in Kuranda
- Health check ups and more home visits
- Regular mental health services and male and female counsellors required
- Health and wellbeing services to be improved
- More medical, social, emotional and allied health services required. [Queensland Health, Dept of Communities \(Child Safety\), Indigenous Health Services](#)

(vi) Training and support for local Indigenous people to enter health related employment and professions as nurses, doctors, ambulance officers, health workers and mental health counsellors. [Training Providers, James Cook University, Kuranda District P12 College, Local Indigenous Organisations](#)

(vii) Conduct health education and programs for good nutrition, substance abuse, men's health. [Queensland Health, Kuranda Medical Centre](#)

(viii) Investigate feasibility of establishing a Drug and Alcohol Service with a "Dry Out" centre on country. [Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Education Program Aboriginal Corporation \(QATSIHWEAPAC\), Dept of Communities, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society, Mona Bulmba Aboriginal Corporation, Kuranda Justice Group, Health Action Group](#)

(ix) Investigate feasibility of establishing an Aboriginal Health service. [Health Action Group, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society, Queensland Health, Australian Government](#)

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2016

2012 - 2021